

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An online distribution system, comprising:
  - a search server;
  - a data distribution server;
  - 5 a download terminal connected to said search server through said data distribution server; and
  - a personal terminal to which said search server is connectable;

10 said search server including a database for storing a plurality of titles of distribution information, title search means for searching the titles stored in said database for a title designated for subscription from said personal terminal, and subscription information storage means for storing the title searched out by said title search means and identification  
15 information transmitted from said personal terminal;

said data distribution server including distribution information storage means for storing the distribution information;

20 said download terminal including identification information acquisition means for acquiring identification information inputted from the outside, first readout means for reading out, based on the identification information acquired by said identification information acquisition means, that one of the titles stored in said subscription information storage  
25 means of said search server which corresponds to the identification information, second readout means for reading

out the distribution information corresponding to the title  
read out by said first readout means from said distribution  
information storage means of said data distribution server,  
and recording means for recording the distribution information  
5 read out by said second readout means onto a recording medium.

2. An online distribution system as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein said download terminal further includes settlement  
means for performing a settlement in regard to the transmission  
of the distribution information for said personal terminal.

10 3. An online distribution system as claimed in claim 1,  
further comprising a cache server in which part of the  
distribution information stored in said distribution  
information storage means of said data distribution server is  
stored in advance, and wherein said download terminal acquires,  
15 when the distribution information of the title corresponding  
to the identification information stored in said subscription  
information storage means of said search server is stored in  
said cache server, the distribution information from said cache  
server, but acquires, when the distribution information is not  
20 stored in said cache server, the distribution information from  
said distribution information storage means of said data  
distribution server.

4. An online distribution system, comprising:  
a search server;  
25 a data distribution server; and  
a personal terminal connected to said data distribution

server through said search server;

said search server including a database for storing a plurality of titles of distribution information, title search means for searching the titles stored in said database for a title designated for subscription from said personal terminal, and subscription information storage means for storing the title searched out by said title search means;

said data distribution server including distribution information storage means for storing the distribution information, title acquisition means for acquiring the title stored in said subscription information storage means of said search server, distribution information readout means for reading out the distribution information corresponding to the title acquired by said title acquisition means from said distribution information storage means, and transmission means for transmitting the distribution information read out by said distribution information readout means to said personal terminal.

5. An online distribution system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said data distribution server further includes settlement means for performing a settlement in regard to the transmission of the distribution information for said personal terminal.

6. An online distribution method for an online distribution system wherein a download terminal is connected to a search server through a data distribution server and said

search server is connectable to a personal terminal, comprising:

the steps performed by said search server of storing a plurality of titles of distribution information into a database of said search server, searching the titles stored in said database for a title designated for subscription from said personal terminal, and storing the searched out title and identification information transmitted from said personal terminal as subscription information;

the step performed by said data distribution server of storing the distribution information into distribution information storage means; and

the steps performed by said download terminal acquiring identification information inputted from the outside, reading out, based on the acquired identification information, that one of the titles which corresponds to the identification information stored as the subscription information in said search server, reading out the distribution information corresponding to the read out title from said distribution information storage means of said data distribution server, and recording the read out distribution information onto a recording medium.

7. An online distribution method for an online distribution system wherein a personal terminal is connected to a data distribution server through a search server, comprising:

the steps performed by said search server of storing a

plurality of titles of distribution information into a database  
of said search server, searching the titles stored in said  
database for a title designated for subscription from said  
personal terminal, and transmitting the searched out title to  
5 said data distribution server; and

the steps performed by said data distribution server of  
storing the distribution information into distribution  
information storage means, reading out the distribution  
information corresponding to the title transmitted from said  
10 search server from said distribution information storage means,  
and transmitting the read out distribution information to said  
personal terminal.